

In the claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A paint roller cleaner comprising:
a cylindrical housing having a first end, a second end, and a side wall
extending therebetween, wherein said housing has a longitudinal axis extending
between the first and second ends and said housing defines a longitudinally aligned
bore therein;
an inlet into the bore defined in the first end of the housing

an outlet from the bore defined in the second end of the housing, said outlet being adapted to receive a paint roller therethrough,

a planar flange extending outwardly away from the second end of the housing and generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis thereof; said flange extending radially outwardly for a distance beyond the side wall of the housing; where the flange has a first surface facing the first end of the housing, a second surface opposed thereto, and an outermost edge intermediate the first and second surfaces and spaced a distance outwardly away from the side wall of the housing; and

a locking member extending generally longitudinally outwardly away from the second surface of the flange and beyond the second end of the housing; and a portion of the locking member is disposed at an angle to the longitudinal axis and is separated from the second surface by a gap, and the gap is adapted to receive part of a handle of the paint roller therein;

a vent opening defined in the side wall of the housing, wherein the vent opening is in fluid communication with the bore;

a reusable plug sized to tightly seal the vent opening against fluid loss from the bore during normal operation of the roller cleaner; and wherein the plug is pushed out of the vent opening only by excessive pressure build-up within the bore.

14. (Currently amended) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 13, wherein the outermost edge of the flange includes an a concave indent adapted to engage complementary in shape to a portion of an exterior circumferential surface of the paint roller and adapted to engage the same.

15. (Previously presented) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 14, wherein the indent is arcuate in shape.

16. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 13, comprising:

a cylindrical housing having a first end, a second end, and a side wall extending therebetween, wherein said housing has a longitudinal axis extending between the first and second ends and said housing defines a longitudinally aligned bore therein;

an inlet into the bore defined in the first end of the housing

an outlet from the bore defined in the second end of the housing, said outlet being adapted to receive a paint roller therethrough,

a planar flange extending outwardly away from the second end of the housing and generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis thereof; where the flange has a first surface facing the first end of the housing, a second surface opposed thereto, and an outermost edge intermediate the first and second surfaces and spaced a distance outwardly away from the side wall of the housing;

a locking member extending generally longitudinally outwardly away from the second surface of the flange and beyond the second end of the housing; and a portion of the locking member is disposed at an angle to the longitudinal axis and is separated from the second surface by a gap, and the gap is adapted to receive part of a handle of the paint roller therein; wherein the housing further includes:

a vent opening defined in the side wall proximate the inlet, wherein the vent opening is in fluid communication with the bore;

 a reusable plug sized to tightly seal the vent opening against fluid loss from the bore during normal operation of the roller cleaner; and wherein the plug is pushed out of the vent opening only by excessive pressure build-up within the bore; and

 a tether connected at a first end to the plug and at a second end to the housing.

17. (Previously presented) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 16, wherein the first end of the housing narrows to a spigot which defines the inlet therein; and wherein the second end of the tether is received around a circumferential wall of the spigot.
18. (Previously presented) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 16, wherein the plug has an interior end, an exterior end and sidewall extending therebetween; and wherein the interior end is of a first thickness and the side wall is of a second thickness and the first thickness is greater than the second thickness.
19. (Previously presented) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 18, wherein the interior end of the plug is of a first diameter and the vent opening is of a second diameter, and the first diameter is greater than the second diameter.

20. (Previously presented) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 18, wherein the plug further includes an annular flange at its exterior end and the annular flange sealingly abuts an exterior surface of the side wall of the housing that circumscribes the vent opening.

21. (Previously presented) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 13, wherein the locking member is substantially arcuate in shape, and the gap between the locking member and the second surface of the flange is substantially arcuate in shape.

22. (Currently Amended) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 21, wherein a portion of the locking member ~~first wall~~ extends inwardly from the first surface of the flange, along the side wall of the housing and toward the first end thereof.

23. (Previously presented) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 19, wherein the locking member comprises a first and second wall extending outwardly away from the second surface of the flange and spaced a distance apart from each other; wherein the first and second wall taper toward each other and intersect at a tip; and wherein the gap between the locking member and the second surface of the flange is defined between the first wall of the locking member and the second surface of the flange.

24. (Previously presented) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 23, wherein a portion of each of the first and second walls of the locking member extend inwardly away from the first surface of the flange and toward the first end of the housing; and the portion of the first wall is spaced a distance away from the portion of the second wall; and the distance between the portions of the first and second wall is substantially constant and the portions of the first and second walls are substantially parallel to each other.

25. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 16, wherein the outermost edge of the flange includes an indent complementary in shape to a portion of an exterior circumferential surface of the paint roller and adapted to engage the same.

26. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 25, wherein the indent is arcuate in shape.

27. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 16, wherein the locking member is substantially arcuate in shape, and the gap between the locking member and the second surface of the flange is substantially arcuate in shape.

28. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 27, wherein a portion of the locking member extends inwardly from the first surface of the flange, along the side wall of the housing and toward the first end thereof.

29. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 16, wherein the first end of the housing narrows to a spigot which defines the inlet therein; and wherein the second end of the tether is received around a circumferential wall of the spigot.

30. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 13, wherein the plug has an interior end, an exterior end and sidewall extending therebetween; and wherein the interior end is of a first thickness and the side wall is of a second thickness and the first thickness is greater than the second thickness.

31. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 30, wherein the interior end of the plug is of a first diameter and the vent opening is of a second diameter, and the first diameter is greater than the second diameter.

32. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 30, wherein the plug further includes an annular flange at its exterior end and the annular flange sealingly abuts an exterior surface of the side wall of the housing that circumscribes the vent opening.

33. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 31, wherein the locking member comprises a first and second wall extending outwardly away from the second surface of the flange and spaced a distance apart from each other; wherein the first and second wall taper toward each other and intersect at a tip; and wherein the gap between the locking member and the second surface of the

flange is defined between the first wall of the locking member and the second surface of the flange.

34. (New) The paint roller cleaner as defined in claim 33, wherein a portion of each of the first and second walls of the locking member extend inwardly away from the first surface of the flange and toward the first end of the housing; and the portion of the first wall is spaced a distance away from the portion of the second wall; and the distance between the portions of the first and second wall is substantially constant and the portions of the first and second walls are substantially parallel to each other.